

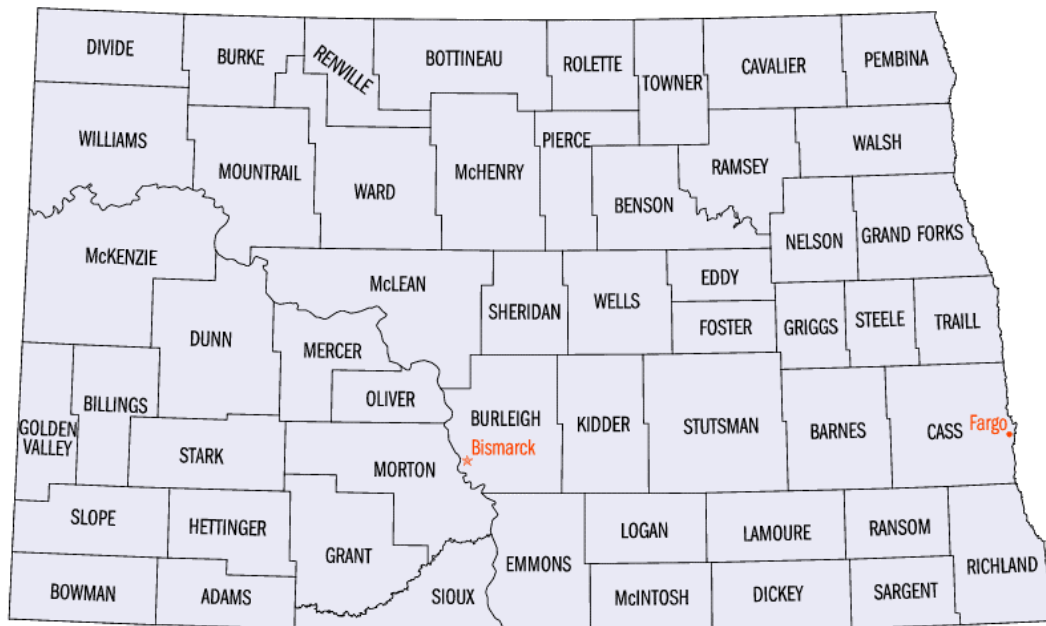
# Office of National Drug Control Policy

## Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

### State of North Dakota

#### Profile of Drug Indicators

December 2002



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

## **North Dakota**

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, funding, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

### **Demographics<sup>1</sup>**

- Population: 634,448 (2001 Census estimate); 642,200 (2000 Census)
- Race/Ethnicity (2000 Census): 91.7% white; 0.6% black/African American; 4.8% American Indian/Alaska Native; 0.6% Asian; 0.0% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander; 0.0% other race; 1.0% two or more races; 1.2% Hispanic/Latino (of any race)

### **Politics**

- Governor: John Hoeven<sup>2</sup>
- Lt. Governor: Jack Dalrymple<sup>3</sup>
- Attorney General: Wayne Stenehjem<sup>4</sup>
- Secretary of State: Alvin A Jaeger<sup>5</sup>
- U.S. Senate: Kent Conrad (D); Byron L. Dorgan (D)<sup>6</sup>
- U.S. Representative: Earl Pomeroy<sup>7</sup>
- North Dakota Capital: Bismarck<sup>8</sup>

### **Programs/Initiatives**

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)<sup>9</sup>  
Designated in 1996, the Midwest HIDTA is responsible for sections of Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota. The area of North Dakota involved in Midwest HIDTA activities are Burleigh, Cass, Grand Forks, Morton, Ramsey, Richland, Walsh, and Ward Counties. The North Dakota counties did not join the Midwest HIDTA until February 1999. The mission of the Midwest HIDTA is to reduce drug production, trafficking, and distribution in the HIDTA areas.
- Retailers Meth Watch Program<sup>10</sup>  
The North Dakota Meth Watch Program is a partnership between the Attorney General's office and concerned North Dakota retailers. The goals of the program are to raise awareness of the problems associated with methamphetamine labs, to educate and train retail employees to recognize signs of individuals obtaining meth production precursors, and to limit the availability of precursors.
- North Dakota Drug Enforcement Initiative<sup>11</sup>  
The Drug Enforcement Initiative was created in response to the serious problems caused by drug usage and trafficking in North Dakota. A few of the goals of the initiative include the following: to stop the importation of illegal drugs, especially methamphetamine, from Mexico and the Southwestern U.S.; to create an awareness and understanding of the State's drug problem and the harms caused by illegal drugs; to identify and target vulnerable groups for increased education, awareness, and enforcement of drug dealers that prey on vulnerable groups; and to ensure that all residents have resources to assist them and their families with problems associated with drug abuse.

➤ Share the Fame<sup>12</sup>

The Share the Fame program was created in an effort to deter drug and alcohol abuse by juveniles in Native American communities. Share the Fame is a community-outreach prevention program on North Dakota reservations that encourages youths' artistic expressions. It is intended to tap into Native American art and culture as a way to get the drug prevention message across.

### **Federal Funding**

- Drug-Free Communities Support Program grantees in North Dakota:<sup>13</sup>
  - FY 2002: no grantees
  - FY 2001: \$98,261 awarded to the Southwest Coalition of Safe Communities, Dickinson
  - FY 2000: \$99,536 awarded to Grand Forks Youth Team Coalition, Grand Forks
  - FY 1999 and FY 1998: no grantees
- There are no sites in North Dakota that have been officially recognized as Weed and Seed sites.<sup>14</sup>
- North Dakota did not receive any methamphetamine funding in 2002 from the Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS).<sup>15</sup>
- FY 2001/2002 SAMHSA Formula and Discretionary Grant Allotments Summary for North Dakota:<sup>16</sup>
  - Formula Funding - \$6,728,924
    - Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant - \$4,745,325
    - Community Mental Health Services Block Grant - \$848,699
    - Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) - \$300,000
    - Protection and Advocacy Formula Grant - \$384,900
  - Discretionary Funding - \$1,137,030
    - Mental Health - \$492,993
    - Substance Prevention - \$0
    - Substance Abuse Treatment - \$644,037
  - Total Mental Health Funds: \$2,026,592
  - Total Substance Abuse Funds: \$5,389,362
  - Total Funds for North Dakota: \$7,415,954
- FY 2002 Byrne Formula Grant Program amount awarded to North Dakota: \$2,181,472<sup>17</sup>
- There were no North Dakota recipients of the FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs Drug Court grant program.<sup>18</sup>
- FY 2001 Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners Formula Grant amount allocated to North Dakota: \$299,987<sup>19</sup>
- There were no North Dakota recipients of the FY 2001 Housing and Urban Development Drug Elimination Grant.<sup>20</sup>

### **Crime and Drug-Related Crime**

- There were 1,344 adult arrests for drug offenses in North Dakota during 2001.<sup>21</sup>

Number of Adult Arrests, Selected Offenses, North Dakota, 1999-2001

Offense Type	1999	2000	2001
Murder/non-neg. manslaughter	5	1	3
Forcible rape	18	27	23
Robbery	19	15	16
Aggravated assault	82	128	133
Burglary	205	166	166
Larceny-theft	1,110	987	1,102
Motor vehicle theft	104	93	108
Drug offenses	1,169	1,206	1,344
Driving under the influence	5,005	4,214	4,207
Liquor law violations	4,191	4,493	5,520

- More than 900 of the North Dakota adult drug arrests during 2001 involved marijuana.<sup>22</sup>

Number of Adult Drug Arrests, by Drug Involved, North Dakota, 1999-2001

Drug Type	1999	2000	2001
Opiates/cocaine/derivatives	52	41	33
Marijuana	911	925	950
Other drugs/narcotics	206	240	361

- The majority of the adult drug arrests in 2001 were for drug possession.<sup>23</sup>

Number of Adult Drug Arrests, by Type of Offense, North Dakota, 1999-2001

	1999	2000	2001
Sale/manufacturing	145	156	111
Possession	1,024	1,050	1,233

- According to the North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission, the unemployment rate on Indian reservations in the State averages 55%. The high rate of unemployment may result in a large number of individuals who are willing to engage in criminal activities, such as drug distribution, to support themselves.<sup>24</sup>
- The North Dakota Crime Laboratory has reported an increase in the number of methamphetamine samples submitted for analysis from 1992 through 2000. In 1992, there were 14 samples submitted, and by 2000, the number of methamphetamine samples submitted for analysis totaled 1,218.<sup>25</sup>
- Veterinary clinic burglaries for ketamine have increased in North Dakota. Typically, one or two clinics are burglarized each year. However, during the first ten months of 2001, more than twelve clinics were burglarized.<sup>26</sup>

## Drugs

- Cocaine  
Powder cocaine availability and abuse are stable at low levels in North Dakota. The availability and abuse of crack cocaine are very limited. Cocaine prices range in the State from \$100 to \$120 per gram and \$1,000 to \$1,500 per ounce.<sup>27</sup>
- Heroin  
The use of heroin is not a significant problem in North Dakota. Virtually all heroin found in the State is black tar heroin from Mexico.<sup>28</sup> Mexican brown powdered heroin is also available but in very limited quantities. Black tar heroin prices range from \$350 to \$600 per gram and \$4,000 to \$10,000 per ounce.<sup>29</sup>
- Marijuana  
Marijuana is one of the primary drugs of abuse in North Dakota. Most of the marijuana available in the State originates in Mexico. However, marijuana is increasingly available from local cultivators. Ditchweed is abundant in the southeastern part of North Dakota.<sup>30</sup> Local marijuana cultivators are often armed and use booby traps and warning devices to protect grow sites from law enforcement. Marijuana prices remain stable in the State: \$8-\$10 per gram, \$100-\$120 per ounce, and \$800-\$1,000 per pound.<sup>31</sup>
- Methamphetamine  
The most significant drug threat to North Dakota is methamphetamine. The most common type of meth found in the State is produced in Mexico.<sup>32</sup> Methamphetamine is also increasingly being produced in small laboratories throughout North Dakota. Because of the State's dependence on the agriculture industry, there is a high level of use and availability of anhydrous ammonia, a substance commonly used in the "Nazi" method of manufacturing methamphetamine.<sup>33</sup> Methamphetamine prices are decreasing in the State. During FY 1999, meth prices ranged from \$125-\$200 per gram and \$2,000 to \$2,500 per ounce. In FY 2000, prices ranged from \$100-\$120 per gram and \$1,000 to \$1,300 per ounce.<sup>34</sup>
- Club Drugs  
There have been some indications that club drugs are appearing in the Fargo area of North Dakota in small quantities.<sup>35</sup> The abuse of MDMA is increasing slowly throughout the State and occurs primarily among high school and college age students. The abuse of GHB is also increasing, primarily in North Dakota's urban areas. Ketamine is an emerging threat to North Dakota. Authorities have noted an increase in the popularity of hallucinogens in the State, possibly attributed to the growing presence of raves and dance clubs.<sup>36</sup>
- Other Drugs  
The availability of psilocybin is increasing in certain areas of North Dakota. The abuse of diverted pharmaceuticals, particularly Ritalin, OxyContin, Percocet, and Darvocet, is increasing throughout the State. Ritalin abusers often grind the pill into a powder and snort it like cocaine or dilute and inject it like heroin. The most common methods used to obtain OxyContin include prescription fraud and pharmacy burglary.<sup>37</sup>
- According to 1999-2000 data from the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, less than half (44.6%) of North Dakota citizens ages 12 and older felt that smoking marijuana once a month posed a great risk.<sup>38</sup>

Percent of Citizens Reporting Drug Use, by Age, North Dakota, 1999-2000

	12-17	18-25	26 +	All ages
Past month use of any illicit drug	8.75%	11.35%	2.11%	4.19%
Past month use of marijuana	6.80	10.16	1.27	3.17
Past month use of illicit drug other than marij.	3.99	4.41	1.42	2.14
Past year cocaine use	1.62	3.91	0.77	1.31
Great risk of smoking marijuana once a month	40.07	29.61	48.17	44.60

**Juveniles**

- There were 311 juvenile arrests for drug offenses in North Dakota during 2001.<sup>39</sup>

Number of Juvenile Arrests, Selected Offenses, North Dakota, 1999-2001

Offense Type	1999	2000	2001
Murder/non-neg. manslaughter	1	0	0
Forcible rape	6	12	9
Robbery	9	0	3
Aggravated assault	25	15	28
Burglary	202	134	175
Larceny-theft	1,212	1,285	1,134
Motor vehicle theft	185	153	130
Drug offenses	284	292	311
Driving under the influence	169	81	90
Liquor law violations	2,176	2,039	1,890

- Nearly 270 of the North Dakota juvenile drug arrests in 2001 involved marijuana.<sup>40</sup>

Number of Juvenile Drug Arrests, by Drug Involved, North Dakota, 1999-2001

Drug Type	1999	2000	2001
Opiates/cocaine/derivatives	0	4	0
Marijuana	260	263	269
Other drugs/narcotics	24	25	42

- The majority of the juvenile drug arrests in 2001 were for drug possession.<sup>41</sup>

Number of Juvenile Drug Arrests, by Type of Offense, North Dakota, 1999-2001

	1999	2000	2001
Sale/manufacturing	11	32	7
Possession	273	260	304

- Nearly ten percent of North Dakota high school students surveyed in 2001 reported using methamphetamine at least once during their lifetimes.<sup>42</sup>

Percent of Students Reporting Selected Drug Use, by Gender, North Dakota, 2001

	Female	Male	Total
Current marijuana use	18.4%	25.1%	22.0%
Lifetime cocaine use	7.1	11.0	9.3
Lifetime inhalant use	14.9	15.0	15.1
Current inhalant use	1.7	5.6	3.8
Lifetime heroin use	1.6	5.0	3.4
Lifetime methamphetamine use	8.3	10.7	9.7
Lifetime illegal steroid use	1.7	6.4	4.3
Lifetime injecting illegal drug use	0.9	3.5	2.4

- Nearly thirteen percent of 12th graders reported using methamphetamine at least once during their lifetimes.<sup>43</sup>

Percent of Students Reporting Selected Drug Use, by Grade, North Dakota, 2001

	9th	10th	11th	12th
Current marijuana use	20.7%	20.7%	21.9%	23.8%
Lifetime cocaine use	10.9	7.1	6.9	10.9
Lifetime inhalant use	17.7	14.8	14.4	12.5
Current inhalant use	6.6	3.8	2.6	1.4
Lifetime heroin use	4.6	3.2	2.0	3.2
Lifetime methamphetamine use	10.3	6.8	7.7	12.8
Lifetime steroid use	4.9	5.4	2.5	3.1
Lifetime injection of illegal drug	3.9	1.0	1.2	2.3

### Enforcement

- Midwest HIDTA initiatives in North Dakota include the following:<sup>44</sup>
  - North Dakota/Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Enforcement: The purpose of this initiative is to coordinate methamphetamine efforts in North Dakota through increased investigation and prosecutions.
  - HIDTA Task Force Bismarck: Members of this task force target methamphetamine manufacturing, importation, and distribution in Bismarck and other parts of North Dakota.
  - Grand Forks County Task Force: The purpose of this task force is to target methamphetamine trafficking and related violent crime in the Grand Forks area.
- As of October 31, 2001, there were 1,493 full-time law enforcement employees in North Dakota.<sup>45</sup>

### Trafficking and Seizures

- North Dakota shares its northern border with Canada and there are eighteen authorized land ports of entry (POE) in the State. Only a few of the POEs are staffed 24 hours a day providing criminals with the opportunity to smuggle drugs without detection.<sup>46</sup>
- Large quantities of methamphetamine produced in California and Washington by Mexican organizations are transported into and distributed throughout the State.<sup>47</sup>

- Mexico-based drug trafficking organizations manage the transportation of marijuana from Mexico to North Dakota, mostly using tractor-trailers.<sup>48</sup>
- Mexican criminal groups often use Native Americans and Indian reservations to facilitate drug distribution in the State.<sup>49</sup>
- MDMA is sometimes transported to North Dakota via Canada. Minneapolis and Denver are also sources of supply for the MDMA distributed in the State.<sup>50</sup>
- Most of the methamphetamine seized in North Dakota is produced in Mexico or California. The majority of the marijuana seized in the State is also produced in Mexico.<sup>51</sup>
- During all of 2001, North Dakota law enforcement seized 89 methamphetamine laboratories. From January to December 18, 2002, authorities in North Dakota seized 267 methamphetamine labs.<sup>52</sup>
- Five kilograms of methamphetamine were seized by Federal agencies in North Dakota during 2001.<sup>53</sup>

#### Federal Drug Seizures, North Dakota, 2001

Drug Type	Amount Seized
Cocaine	0.0 kilograms
Heroin	0.0 kilograms
Methamphetamine	5.0 kilograms
Marijuana	2.4 kilograms

- In 2001, there were 3,860 cultivated marijuana plants eradicated in North Dakota under the Drug Enforcement Administration's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program.<sup>54</sup>

#### Marijuana Plants Eradicated and Seized, North Dakota, 2001

Outdoor Operations			Indoor Operations		Total
Plots Eradicated	Cultivated Plants Eradicated	Ditchweed Eradicated	Grows Seized	Plants Eradicated	Cultivated Plants Eradicated
5	3,765	2,755,431	5	95	3,860

- The number of LSD/hallucinogen seizures by the North Dakota BCI decreased from 452 dosage units in 1994 to 281 dosage units in 2000.<sup>55</sup>

#### Number of LSD/Hallucinogen Seizures, North Dakota BCI, 1994-2000

Year	Dosage Units Seized
1994	452
1995	5,280
1996	393
1997	83
1998	2,182
1999	988
2000	281



- The North Dakota BCI reported three seizures of MDMA tablets during September 2001. The MDMA amounts seized were 20, 30, and 150 tablets, respectively.<sup>56</sup>

### **Courts**

- Drug Courts<sup>57</sup>  
As of November 26, 2002, there were five drug courts in North Dakota that had recently been implemented and one additional drug court was being planned.
- During FY 2001, 16.8% of the Federally sentenced defendants in North Dakota had committed drug offenses. Fifty-six percent of the drug offenses involved methamphetamine.<sup>58</sup>

#### **Federal Sentencing Statistics, Drug Offenses, North Dakota, FY 2001**

<b>Drug Type</b>	<b>Offenses</b>	<b>% of Total</b>
Crack cocaine	1	4%
Powder Cocaine	3	12
Heroin	0	0
Marijuana	7	28
Methamphetamine	14	56
Other drug	0	0

### **Corrections**

- In FY 2000-FY 2001, 28% of the North Dakota adult inmates were charged with committing drug offenses.<sup>59</sup>
- The average daily population of adults in North Dakota facilities in FY 2001 was 976 males and 93 females.<sup>60</sup>
- During FY 2000-FY 2001, 19% of the new male commitments to the Division of Juvenile Services committed drug/public order offenses.<sup>61</sup>

#### **New Juvenile Commitments, by Offense, North Dakota, FY 2000-FY 2001**

<b>Offense</b>	<b>Number of New Commitments</b>		<b>Percent of New Commitments</b>	
	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
Person	98	17	24.9%	16.3%
Property	183	48	46.4	46.2
Drug/public order	75	18	19.0	17.3
Status only	38	21	9.7	20.2

### **Consequences of Use**

- Alcohol, drugs, and medications were contributing factors in 42 of the 96 total North Dakota traffic fatalities during 2001.<sup>62</sup>
- From 1993 to 2000, there were thirty (30) drug-related mortalities in North Dakota.<sup>63</sup>
- Drug-related mortality rates (per 100,000) have increased from 0.16 in 1993 to 1.7 in 2000.<sup>64</sup>

#### Drug-Related Mortality Rates, North Dakota, 1993-2000

Year	Rate per 100,000
1993	0.16
1994	0.1
1995	0.31
1996	0.62
1997	0.94
1998	0.94
1999	1.6
2000	1.7

#### Treatment

- During 2000, there were 1,934 admissions to drug/alcohol treatment facilities in North Dakota.<sup>65</sup>
- Amphetamines were listed as the primary substance of abuse in 90 (4.7%) of the treatment admissions.<sup>66</sup>

#### Primary Substance Abused at Admission, North Dakota, 2000

Substance Abused	Number of Admissions	Percent of Total
Alcohol only	832	43.0%
Alcohol with secondary drug	610	31.5
Heroin	6	0.3
Other opiates	21	1.1
Cocaine/smoked	5	0.3
Cocaine/other route of administration	7	0.4
Marijuana/hashish	340	17.6
Amphetamines	90	4.7
Other stimulants	--	0.0
Hallucinogens	1	0.1
Inhalants	9	0.5
PCP	--	0.0
Tranquilizers	8	0.4
Sedatives	2	0.1
Other/none specified	3	0.2

#### Sources

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau Web site: <http://www.census.gov>

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<sup>4</sup> North Dakota Attorney General Web site: <http://www.ag.state.nd.us/>

<sup>5</sup> North Dakota Secretary of State Web site: <http://www.state.nd.us/sec/>

<sup>6</sup> U.S. Senate Web site: <http://www.senate.gov/>

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- <sup>23</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>24</sup> National Drug Intelligence Center, *North Dakota Drug Threat Assessment*, May 2002: <http://www.usdoj.gov/ndic/pubs/1052/1052p.pdf>
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- <sup>26</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>27</sup> Ibid.
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This State Profile was prepared by the ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse is funded by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy and is a component of the [National Criminal Justice Reference Service](#). For further information concerning the contents of this profile or other drug policy issues, contact:

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